

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please replace all previous listings of claims in this application with the following listing of claims:

1-79. (Cancelled).

80. (Currently Amended) A rail assembly, comprising:

a rail;

a post; and

a bracket for mounting the rail to the post, the bracket comprising:

a post surface at least a portion of which is configured to abut a mounting surface of the post; and

at least two surfaces configured to be associated with and not parallel to the post surface of the bracket,

wherein a first surface of the at least two surfaces is configured to accommodate the rail mounted to the post in a first configuration,

wherein a second surface of the at least two surfaces is configured to accommodate the rail mounted to the post in a second configuration different from the first configuration,

wherein in the first configuration of the rail relative to the post, a longitudinal axis of the rail is at a first angle relative to the mounting surface of the post, and in the second configuration of the rail relative to the post, the longitudinal axis of the rail is at a second

angle relative to the mounting surface of the post different from the first angle,

wherein a horizontal width of the rail is greater than a horizontal width of the bracket or a vertical height of the rail is greater than a vertical height of the bracket when the bracket and rail are mounted on the post.

81. (Cancelled).

82. (Currently Amended) The rail assembly of claim 80 [[82]], wherein in both the first configuration and the second configuration of the rail relative to the post, the rail is configured to be in a substantially horizontal orientation.

83. (Previously Presented) The rail assembly of claim 80, wherein in the first configuration of the rail relative to the post, the rail is configured to be mounted to the post in a substantially horizontal orientation and in the second configuration of the rail relative to the post, the rail is configured to be mounted to the post at an angle relative to a longitudinal axis of the post such that the rail is not in the substantially horizontal orientation.

84. (Previously Presented) The rail assembly of claim 80, wherein in the first configuration the first surface is configured to be substantially aligned with a surface of the rail and in the second configuration the second surface is configured to be substantially aligned with the surface of the rail.

85. (Previously Presented) The rail assembly of claim 80, wherein in the first configuration a portion of the first surface is configured to abut a surface of the rail and in the second configuration a portion of the second surface is configured to abut the surface of the rail.

86. (Previously Presented) The rail assembly of claim 80, wherein the first surface and the second surface are not parallel to each other.

87. (Previously Presented) The rail assembly of claim 80, wherein the first surface comprises at least two first surfaces.

88. (Previously Presented) The rail assembly of claim 87, wherein each of the at least two first surfaces are in different planes.

89. (Previously Presented) The rail assembly of claim 87, wherein each of the at least two first surface are parallel to each other.

90. (Previously Presented) The rail assembly of claim 87, wherein the second surface comprises at least two second surfaces.

91. (Previously Presented) The rail assembly of claim 90, wherein each of the at least two second surfaces are in different planes.

92. (Previously Presented) The rail assembly of claim 90, wherein each of the at least two second surface are parallel to each other.

93. (Previously Presented) The rail assembly of claim 90, wherein the at least two first surfaces and the at least two second surfaces are separated by substantially the same distance.

94. (Previously Presented) The rail assembly of claim 80, further comprising a third surface configured to be associated with the post surface,

wherein the third surface is configured to accommodate the rail mounted to the post in a third configuration different from the first configuration and the second configuration.

95. (Previously Presented) The rail assembly of claim 80, wherein the bracket is configured such that when the rail is mounted to the post via the bracket in the first configuration another rail cannot be mounted to the post via the bracket in the second configuration.

96. (Previously Presented) The rail assembly of claim 80, wherein the first surface is configured to receive and retain a first surface of another bracket.

97. (Previously Presented) A rail assembly, comprising:

a rail;

a post; and

a bracket for mounting the rail to the post, the bracket comprising:

a post surface at least a portion of which is configured to abut a mounting
surface of the post; and

at least two surfaces configured to be associated with and not parallel to
the post surface of the bracket,

wherein a first surface of the at least two surfaces is configured to
accommodate the rail mounted to the post in a first configuration,

wherein a second surface of the at least two surfaces is configured to
accommodate the rail mounted to the post in a second
configuration different from the first configuration,

wherein the first surface is configured to receive and retain a first surface
of another bracket,

wherein the first surface includes at least one protrusion configured to
assist the first surface in receiving and retaining the first surface of
another bracket.

98. (Previously Presented) The rail assembly of claim 80, wherein the first
surface forms about a 45 degree angle with the post surface.

99. (Previously Presented) The rail assembly of claim 80, wherein the first
surface forms about a 90 degree angle with the post surface.

100. (Previously Presented) The rail assembly of claim 98, wherein the second surface forms about a 45 degree angle with the post surface and about a 90 degree angle with the first surface.

101. (Previously Presented) The rail assembly of claim 99, wherein the second surface forms about a 45 degree angle with the post surface and about a 45 degree angle with the first surface.

102. (Previously Presented) The rail assembly of claim 98, wherein the second surface forms about a 45 degree angle with the post surface and about a 45 degree angle with the first surface.

103. (Previously Presented) The rail assembly of claim 94, wherein the first surface forms about a 45 degree angle with the post surface, the second surface forms about a 45 degree angle with the post surface and about a 90 degree angle with the first surface, and third surface forms about a 45 degree angle with both the first surface and the second surface and about a 90 degree angle with the post surface.

104. (Previously Presented) The rail assembly of claim 90, wherein in the first configuration the at least two first surfaces are configured to be substantially parallel to surfaces of the rail and in the second configuration the at least two second surfaces are configured to be substantially parallel to the surfaces of the rail.

105. (Currently Amended) ~~[[The]]~~ A rail assembly, of claim 80 comprising:

a rail;

a post; and

a bracket for mounting the rail to the post, the bracket comprising:

a post surface at least a portion of which is configured to abut a mounting

surface of the post; and

at least two surfaces configured to be associated with and not parallel to

the post surface of the bracket,

wherein a first surface of the at least two surfaces is configured to

accommodate the rail mounted to the post in a first configuration,

wherein a second surface of the at least two surfaces is configured to

accommodate the rail mounted to the post in a second

configuration different from the first configuration,

wherein in the first configuration of the rail relative to the post, a

longitudinal axis of the rail is at a first angle relative to the mounting

surface of the post, and in the second configuration of the rail

relative to the post, the longitudinal axis of the rail is at a second

angle relative to the mounting surface of the post different from the

first angle,

wherein the at least two surfaces are disposed between interior surfaces

of the rail.

106. (Currently Amended) ~~[[The]]~~ A rail assembly, of claim 80 comprising:

a rail;

a post; and

a bracket for mounting the rail to the post, the bracket comprising:

a post surface at least a portion of which is configured to abut a mounting

surface of the post; and

at least two surfaces configured to be associated with and not parallel to

the post surface of the bracket,

wherein a first surface of the at least two surfaces is configured to

accommodate the rail mounted to the post in a first configuration,

wherein a second surface of the at least two surfaces is configured to

accommodate the rail mounted to the post in a second

configuration different from the first configuration,

wherein in the first configuration of the rail relative to the post, a

longitudinal axis of the rail is at a first angle relative to the mounting

surface of the post, and in the second configuration of the rail

relative to the post, the longitudinal axis of the rail is at a second

angle relative to the mounting surface of the post different from the

first angle,

wherein the rail surrounds the at least two surfaces.

107. (Previously Presented) The rail assembly of claim 80, wherein the rail has a substantially U-shaped cross-sectional configuration.

108. (Previously Presented) The rail assembly of claim 80, wherein the rail is in physical contact with at least one of the at least two surfaces.

109. (Previously Presented) The rail assembly of claim 108, wherein the rail is in physical contact with both of the at least two surfaces.

110. (Previously Presented) The rail assembly of claim 108, wherein the rail is not in physical contact with one of the at least two surfaces.

111. (Previously Presented) The rail assembly of claim 80, wherein the first angle is about 90 degrees and the second angle is about 45 degrees.

112. (Currently Amended) The rail assembly of claim 97 ~~[[80]]~~, wherein in the first configuration the longitudinal axis of the rail is at the first angle relative to a longitudinal axis of the post, and in the second configuration the longitudinal axis of the rail is at the second angle relative to the longitudinal axis of the post different from the first angle.

113. (Previously Presented) The rail assembly of claim 80, wherein in the first configuration the longitudinal axis of the rail is at the first angle relative to a plane substantially perpendicular to the mounting surface, and in the second configuration the longitudinal axis of the rail is at the second angle relative to the plane substantially perpendicular to the mounting surface,

wherein the plane includes the longitudinal axis of the post.

114. (Previously Presented) The rail assembly of claim 80, wherein in both the first configuration and the second configuration, an endmost surface of the rail is substantially parallel to the mounting surface.

115. (Currently Amended) ~~[[The]]~~ A rail assembly, of claim 80 comprising:

a rail;

a post; and

a bracket for mounting the rail to the post, the bracket comprising:

a post surface at least a portion of which is configured to abut a mounting surface of the post; and

at least two surfaces configured to be associated with and not parallel to the post surface of the bracket,

wherein a first surface of the at least two surfaces is configured to

accommodate the rail mounted to the post in a first configuration,

wherein a second surface of the at least two surfaces is configured to

accommodate the rail mounted to the post in a second

configuration different from the first configuration,

wherein in the first configuration of the rail relative to the post, a

longitudinal axis of the rail is at a first angle relative to the mounting

surface of the post, and in the second configuration of the rail

relative to the post, the longitudinal axis of the rail is at a second

angle relative to the mounting surface of the post different from the first angle,

wherein in both the first configuration and the second configuration, an endmost surface of the rail is in physical contact with the mounting surface of the post.

116. (New) The rail assembly of claim 105, wherein the first surface is configured to receive and retain a first surface of another bracket, wherein the first surface includes at least one protrusion configured to assist the first surface in receiving and retaining the first surface of another bracket.

117. (New) The rail assembly of claim 106, wherein the first surface is configured to receive and retain a first surface of another bracket, wherein the first surface includes at least one protrusion configured to assist the first surface in receiving and retaining the first surface of another bracket.

118. (New) The rail assembly of claim 115, wherein the first surface is configured to receive and retain a first surface of another bracket, wherein the first surface includes at least one protrusion configured to assist the first surface in receiving and retaining the first surface of another bracket.

119. (New) The rail assembly of claim 97, wherein the at least two surfaces are disposed between interior surfaces of the rail.

120. (New) The rail assembly of claim 106, wherein the at least two surfaces are disposed between interior surfaces of the rail.

121. (New) The rail assembly of claim 115, wherein the at least two surfaces are disposed between interior surfaces of the rail.

122. (New) The rail assembly of claim 97, wherein the rail surrounds the at least two surfaces.

123. (New) The rail assembly of claim 105, wherein the rail surrounds the at least two surfaces.

124. (New) The rail assembly of claim 115, wherein the rail surrounds the at least two surfaces.

125. (New) The rail assembly of claim 97, wherein in both the first configuration and the second configuration, an endmost surface of the rail is in physical contact with the mounting surface of the post.

126. (New) The rail assembly of claim 105, wherein in both the first configuration and the second configuration, an endmost surface of the rail is in physical contact with the mounting surface of the post.

127. (New) The rail assembly of claim 106, wherein in both the first configuration and the second configuration, an endmost surface of the rail is in physical contact with the mounting surface of the post.

128. (New) A rail assembly, comprising:

a rail;

a post; and

a bracket for mounting the rail to the post, the bracket comprising:

a post surface at least a portion of which is configured to abut a mounting surface of the post;

at least two surfaces configured to be associated with and not parallel to the post surface of the bracket; and

at least one mounting hole configured to accommodate a screw or nail therethrough for attachment to the rail,

wherein a first surface of the at least two surfaces is configured to accommodate the rail mounted to the post in a first configuration,

wherein a second surface of the at least two surfaces is configured to accommodate the rail mounted to the post in a second configuration different from the first configuration,

wherein in the first configuration of the rail relative to the post, a longitudinal axis of the rail is at a first angle relative to the mounting surface of the post, and in the second configuration of the rail

relative to the post, the longitudinal axis of the rail is at a second angle relative to the mounting surface of the post different from the first angle.

129. (New) The rail assembly of claim 128, wherein the screw or nail is disposed through the at least one mounting hole and in the rail.

130. (New) The rail assembly of claim 128, wherein the at least one mounting hole includes a counterbore.

131. (New) The rail assembly of claim 128, wherein the at least one mounting hole is disposed parallel to the post surface.